

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paul Spitler to Head California OHV Commission

Paul J. Spitler, a consultant who works on California land use issues, was named Thursday (March 20, 2003) as chair of the seven-member California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission.

He was selected by his fellow Commissioners to succeed Daphne Greene of San Rafael in the Commission's regular reorganization. Greene, owner of an outdoor adventure consulting company, announced her resignation from the Commission effective April 30. Greene, appointed to her position by Governor Gray Davis in May 2000, cited "personal and professional obligations."

Spitler, who has served on the Commission since his appointment by the Senate Rules Committee in January 2000, formerly served as Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition and California organizer for the American Lands Alliance. Spitler has been involved in California conservation and land use issues since 1990 and has a degree in geology from the University of California at Davis. He lives in Davis.

California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission was created by the Legislature in 1982 to allow public input and provide policy guidance for the OHV program. The Commission's duties include: allocating funds for OHV capital outlay expenditures and OHV grants and cooperative agreements; certifying environmental impact reports; and considering adverse impacts on property in the vicinity of SVRAs, and recommending measures to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks to reduce those impacts.

Seven Commissioners are appointed to staggered, four-year terms. The Governor appoints three of the members, and the Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint two. The Commission membership is required to represent a broad range of disciplines relevant to off-highway recreation -- OHV recreationists, biologists, rural landowners, soil scientists, and environmental interests.

In addition to Spitler and Greene, other commissioners are: Judith Anderson of Montrose, Robert F. Chavez of Encino, Michael F. Prizmich of Lone, Harold Thomas of Sacramento and John Brissenden, Hope Valley.